

9D-DW-19892
PATENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 27 with the following replacement paragraph.

[0027] In an illustrative embodiment, formation 222 includes a boot-shaped portion 224 depending from inner door panel 162 and extending downwardly therefrom. Boot portion 224 includes a neck 226, a substantially flat rear edge 228 partially defined by neck 226, an extended heel portion 230 depending downwardly from flat rear edge 228, and a curved arch portion 232 extending and tapering from heel portion 230 to a toe portion 234. Boot portion 224, as will be seen below, is shaped to engage and retain sealing member 192 while avoiding manufacturing and assembly difficulties of known door assemblies. A barrier portion 236 also extends downwardly from inner door panel 162 in a substantially parallel alignment with a rear edge 228 of boot portion 224. Barrier portion 236 extends for a greater length than boot portion 224 and is in a spaced relationship with boot portion 224. In one embodiment, inner door panel 162 is integrally formed, including boot portion 224, from known materials, such as an injection molded plastic, although in alternative embodiments it is contemplated that other materials may likewise be utilized according to known methods and techniques to fabricate inner door panel 162.

Please replace paragraph 29 with the following replacement paragraph.

[0029] Seal member head portion 196 (shown in Figure 6) includes an opening 250 generally complementary in shape to boot portion 224 (shown in Figure 4) of inner door panel bottom portion 220. As such, seal member head opening 250 includes a heel portion 252, an arch portion 254, a toe portion 256, and a neck portion 258 for receiving respective portions of inner door panel boot portion 224 (shown in Figure 4). Seal member flap portion 198 (shown in Figure 6) extends from head portion 230 196 to a curl 260 at a distal end thereof.